

***Lasthenia glaberrima* DC.**

smooth goldfields  
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

**Status:** State Endangered

**Rank:** G5S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock (1955): A hairless or nearly hairless annual herb that has trailing stems, commonly roots from the lower nodes, and is 2 to 12 in. (15 to 30 cm) tall. The leaves are linear, entire, blunt,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. (2 to 8 cm) long, and at least some of the pairs are connate at the base. There are few heads that are often long-pedunculate. The involucre is  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (5 to 7 mm) high, with short, ciliate teeth. The involucral bracts are united in a toothed or lobed cup. The rays are very short and inconspicuous and they are not projected from the involucre. The pappus is composed of 5 to 10 firm, jagged and sometimes shortly awn-tipped scales.

**Identification Tips:** *Lasthenia glaberrima* is the only *Lasthenia* species in the Pacific Northwest. It is most closely related to the genus *Baeria*, of which there is also only one species in the Pacific Northwest, which is confined to coastal areas. These genera can be distinguished by their involucral bracts. The involucral bracts of *Lasthenia* are united into a toothed or lobed cup. The involucral bracts of *Baeria* are distinct nearly or completely to the base.

**Phenology:** Throughout its range in the Pacific Northwest, this species flowers from June to July. In Washington, it has been observed in June.

**Range:** This species is mostly found west of the Cascades and can be seen from southern Washington to central California. One population has been identified in British Columbia.

**Habitat:** *Lasthenia glaberrima* is commonly found on wet stream banks and in vernal pools.

**Ecology:** This species prefers wet or muddy ground.

**State Status Comments:** There is one historical occurrence from Clark County and one recent occurrence from Klickitat County. Very little information is known about this species.

**Inventory Needs:** Moist areas, vernal pools, and wetlands in Klickitat and Clark counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Known occurrences should be revisited.

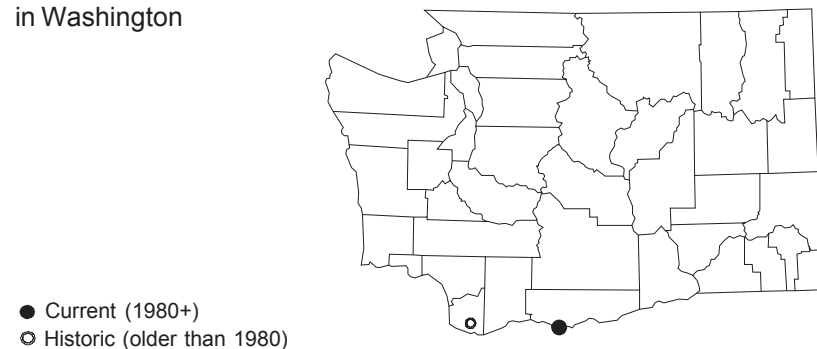
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Illustration by John Rumley

Known distribution of  
*Lasthenia glaberrima*  
in Washington



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Photo by Michael Charters

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**Threats and Management Concerns:** Definite threats have not been identified for this species. However, the small number of known occurrences in Washington is a major concern. Any disturbance to the immediate habitat may constitute a threat.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1955.  
*Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 5: Compositae.*  
University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 343 pp.